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SEMINOLE COUNTY RESTAURANTS OFFER PLEASURE FOR DIVERSE PALATES

A smorgasbord of fresh Florida seafood, ethnic and haute cuisine, Southern cooking and everything in between, awaits visitors to Seminole County.

An outstanding collection of family-operated restaurants, signature dining rooms and local mini-chain franchises complement a cornucopia of regional and national chain favorites. From fast food to fine dining, Seminole County's cosmopolitan culinary experiences truly offer something for everyone.

Listed below is a representative sample of mid- to upper range restaurants in the area.

ALL-NATURAL FOODS

Chamberlin's Natural Foods -- set in a natural food store; low fat "gourmet" dinners featuring natural wine, range-fed chicken, farm-raised seafood, gourmet vegetarian entrees; Casselberry; (407) 678-3100; Longwood; (407) 774-8866

BARBECUE

Uncle Jones' Bar-B-Que -- Florida "cracker"-style ambiance; authentic pit barbecue, extensive soul food dinner buffet; Altamonte Springs; (407) 260-2425

CALIFORNIA CONTEMPORARY

Pebbles -- one of several in a local mini-chain; casual gourmet dining, creative café menu; specializing in appetizers and salads; Longwood; (407) 774-7111

DELIS

Toojay's -- bright, upscale dining; homemade soups, sandwiches, salads and desserts; Altamonte Springs; (407) 830-1770

COUNTRY CLUB DINING

The Restaurant at Sabal Point -- public dining in Florida casual country club setting; overlooks private golf course; popular Sunday brunch; Longwood; (407) 869-5038

Timacuan Bar and Grille -- picturesque golf course view; extensive daily lunch menu; limited public evening dining; Lake Mary; (407) 321-0012

CUBAN

Don Pepe's -- ethnic themed; authentic Cuban/American cuisine; Altamonte Springs; (407) 682-6834

Joe's Cuban Cafe -- casual setting; traditional Cuban/American menu; live music on weekends; Longwood; (407) 260-6672

DINING/ENTERTAINMENT

Rivership Romance --

Peter Scott's -- reminiscent of a time when supper clubs were all the rage, Peter Scott's offers an elegant 1940's-type dinner and dining experience; patrons can feast on gourmet cuisine such as escargot chanterelles, smoked carpaccio, lobster bisque, rack of lamb Provencale, Long Island duck, Dover sole and venison grand veneur; Longwood; (407) 834-4477

Terrace Restaurant (Orlando Jai Alai) -- leisurely upscale dining amid pari-mutuel wagering; tiered seating; steak, seafood, veal, poultry and pasta entrees; cover charge; Fern Park; (407) 331-9191

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FONDUE

Colorado Fondue Company -- Western-themed outpost featuring three fondue preparations including a 600-degree Fahrenheit "hot rock" granite slab; Casselberry; (407) 767-8232

The Melting Pot -- stylish contemporary ambiance; serving two fondue preparations; best bet is the "fondue for two combo" sampler; divine desserts; Longwood; (407) 862-8773

FRENCH

Maison & Jardin -- perennial state Golden Spoon award-winner; elegant villa, garden setting; legendary Sunday brunches; formal service; menus change seasonally; Altamonte Springs; (407) 862-4410

GRILLS

Patio Grill -- casual family atmosphere; menu ranges from home-style pot roast to grilled chicken over pasta; full bar; Longwood; (407) 331-0929

INDIAN

Clay Oven -- traditionally spicy Moghlai cooking; themed dining room; weekday lunch buffet; Longwood; (407) 696-7775

ORIENTAL

Korean House -- Central Florida's only exclusively Korean restaurant; outstanding side dishes, entrees; Longwood; (407) 767-5918

Sakura -- casual Japanese dining in themed setting, including sushi bar; Longwood; (407) 682-4474

Thai Delight -- serving Thai cuisine only, featuring homegrown ingredients, Longwood; (407) 339-6612

ITALIAN

Enzo's -- festive, special occasion dining in charming lakeside Mediterranean-style villa; gourmet Northern Italian cuisine; Longwood; (407) 834-9872

Galleria -- indoor sidewalk cafe setting; creative menu featuring seafood, pasta and gourmet pizza; Lake Mary; (407) 333-0872

La Scala -- authentic Northern Italian fare; elegant ambiance; service panache; occasional tableside opera performances; Altamonte Springs; (407) 862-3257

Gina's on the Water -- waterfront setting at Crane's Roost Lake; extensive offering of Italian specialties including pastas, gourmet pizzas, veal, beef, chicken and seafood dishes; dining in one of two upstairs dining rooms or on a lakeside verandah; Altamonte Springs; (407) 834-5880

Papa Tony Italian Restaurant -- neighborhood standout; gourmet pizza, creatively prepared Northern and Southern Italian dishes; Winter Springs; (407) 327-8943

Stefano's Ristorante Italiano -- gourmet Northern Italian cuisine; gracious service; formal lunch and dinner dining; Longwood; (407) 657-0101

Mona Lisa Restaurant -- intimate, informal setting; authentic Northern Italian cuisine; Lake Mary; (407) 330-1299

MIDDLE EASTERN

Aladdin's Cafe -- formal ethnic dining; belly dancing and live musical entertainment nightly; Casselberry; (407) 331-0488

PERSIAN

Ali Baba -- elegantly themed ethnic dining room; authentic Middle Eastern cuisine; weekday lunch buffets, Sunday brunch; Longwood; (407) 331-8680

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STEAK AND SEAFOOD

Black Hammock Restaurant -- casual dining in fish camp setting; specializing in farmraised gator and catfish; Oviedo; (407) 365-2201

Wolfy's on the Water -- casual marina dining overlooking scenic Lake Monroe; seafood, chicken, burgers, steaks, and salads; Sanford; (407) 322-2150

Gator Landing Riverside Grille -- informal indoor/outdoor dining overlooking the St. Johns River; menu includes Southern fare such as gator, catfish and grouper, burgers and sandwiches, and appetizers; Sanford; (407) 330-1612

Loftons -- casual, upscale dining; fresh herbs grown on premises in chef's organic garden; featuring cut-to-order steaks, fresh Florida seafood, pasta, veal, chicken and pork; Orlando North Hilton, Altamonte Springs; (407) 830-1985

Otter's Riverside Restaurant -- casual dining along the St. John's River; extensive menu ranges from beef and veal to chicken and seafood; lighter sandwiches and salads also available; Port of Sanford; (407) 323-3991

Straub's Seafood -- bright, Florida casual dining; a perennial Central Florida fresh seafood favorite; entrees may be grilled, broiled or fried; Altamonte Springs; (407) 831-2250

Toucan Willie's -- casual, eclectic dining; featuring chicken, beef and ribs, excellent soups; Oviedo; (407) 366-6225

TEX-MEX

Amigo's -- Southwest themed, casual dining; a local favorite, serving potent margaritas, authentic Tex-Mex fare; Altamonte Springs; (407) 774-4334

TEA ROOMS

Rose Cottage Tea Room -- intimate, authentic-looking Victorian cottage; formal table settings, period server uniforms, classical music; serving homemade breads and soups, fresh salads and high-tea; Sanford; (407) 323-9448.

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Just a stone's throw away from all the major attractions of Central Florida, and within a 15-minute drive from its tourist-magnet neighbor Orlando, Seminole County offers great accommodations, fine dining, upscale shopping, superb golf courses, and state-of-the-art sports facilities and training complexes - flanked by charming historical villages.

Surrounded by the beauty of natural Florida, Seminole County also offers the classic Florida experience of peaceful rivers, fishing, boating, hiking and more.

Getting to Daytona can truly be a day at the beach from Seminole, and visitors are in prime position to take off for Florida's famed Space Coast, too.

For destination information call 1-800-800-7832 (USA and Canada) or 407-665-2900 (outside the USA) or visit www.visitseminole.com.